

Message Text

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ACTION FDRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-31 SCS-03 IO-13 OES-06
NSF-01 COME-00 INT-05 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
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-----291653Z 028396 /53
O 291518Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2458

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 2308

FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF (OFDA)
DEPT PASS NBS AND USGS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO
SUBJ: EARTHQUAKE: SEISMOLOGICAL MONITORING
EQUIPMENT: USG TEAM
REF: (A) BUCHAREST 2078, (B) STATE 053630
VLEM SUMMARY. USG TEAM MEMBERS FROM BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
(RUUD AND BOWLES) AND CORPS OF ENGINEERS (DODSON) FINISHED
SURVEY OF ROMANIAN DAMSITES. TEAM DEPARTED BUCHAREST
MARCH 25 AND WILL CONTACT TEAM LEADER CULVER AND AID FOR
COORDINATION. TEXT GIVEN BELOW COMPLETES TEAM'S PRELIMINARY
REPORT CONTAINED REF A. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT DAMS HAVE BEEN INSPECTED BY AMERICAN
TEAM--NO DAMAGE APPARENT VISUALLY. RECHECK OF INSTRUMENTAL
OBSERVATIONS BY ROMANIANS FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE SHOW NO
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES. THOUGH DESIGNS APPEAR WILL CONCEIVED
AND PERFORMANCE IS CAREFULLY MONITORED, CONFIDENCE OF
ROMANIANS IS BOTH STATIC AND DYNAMIC SAFETY SUFFERS FROM
LACK OF INFORMATION ON THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS.
IN ADDITION TO STRONG MOTION INSTRUMENTATION
RECOMMENDED REF A, TEAM RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:
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A. TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE. THE SCOPE
OF THIS COULD INCLUDE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION.,
TRAINING OF ROMANIAN
ENGINEERS IN U.S. (OF THE KIND
AVAILABLE THROUGH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION), AND TECHNICAL
EXCHANGE VISITS IN SPECIALIZED AREAS. COST WOULD BE
DEPENDENT ON EXTENT OF PROGRAM APPROVED.

B. INSTRUMENTATION OF SIRIUL DAM WITH INSTRUMENTS
NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO ROMANIANS. SIRIUL DAM IS
A 400 FT. HIGH ROCK-FILL DAM - IN EARLY STAGES OF
CONSTRUCTION LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 50 KM FROM THE EPICENTRE
OF THE MARCH 4 EARTHQUAKE. INSTRUMENTATION WOULD INCLUDE
DYNAMIC PORE PRESSURE GAUGES AND EARTH PRESSURE CELLS AND
INCLINOMETERS. SUCH AN INSTALLATION IN A SEISMICALLY
ACTIVE AREA HOLDS PROMISE OF SIGNIFICANT DATA OF VALUE
TO THE US IN DESIGN OF FUTURE EARTH AND ROCK-FILLED DAMS,
AND IN EVALUATION OF EXISTING DESIGNS. THE UNDERTAKING
IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED BECAUSE OF MINISTRY OF ELECTRICAL
ENERGY'S DEMONSTRATED INTEREST AND CAPABILITY TO USE AND
MAINTAIN INSTRUMENTATION IN THIS FIELD. COST IS ESTIMATED
TO BE ON THE ORDER OF \$200,000 INCLUDING VISITS OF
AMERICAN SPECIALISTS TO ASSIST IN PLANNING AND INSTALLATION.

3. FYI: USGS SPECIALIST CHRIS ROJAHN WAS INVITED TO
JOIN USG TEAM FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF HIS ACTIVITIES WITH
NSF/NAS EARTHQUAKE INVESTIGATION GROUP (REF B) AND WAS
ABLE TO REMAIN IN BUCHAREST UNTIL MARCH 18. HIS RECOMMEND-
ATIONS ON INSTRUMENTATION (REF A) HAD EARLY INPUT FROM
REST OF TEAM, BUT WERE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF BATNCE
OF DAMSITE INSPECTIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE AFTER HIS DEPARTURE.

4. AGAIN, EMBASSY EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR THOROUGH
PROFESSIONALISM OF TEAM'S CONTRIBUTIONS, COLLECTIVELY AND
INDIVIDUALLY.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE AWARE OF PRESENCE OF NUMEROUS FOREIGN
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GEOPHYSICAL/SEISMIC AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TEAMS NOW
IN ROMANIA, SOME OF WHICH MAY BE OFFERING FORMS OF POST-
EARTHQUAKE AID. SO FAR, HOWEVER, WE KNOW NOTHING SPECIFIC
EXCEPT FROM FRG WHICH WOULD BE CONTINUING A BILATERAL
PROJECT ON INDUCED SEISMICITY BEGUN AT THREE DAMSITES (LOTRU,
ARGES, BICAZ) IN 1974. AS AID'S AND DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSALS
FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING AND SEISMIC
PROGRAMS BEGIN TO TAKE FINAL SHAPE, EMBASSY WILL TRY
TO UPDATE REPORTS ON OTHER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

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